

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for its sesquicentennial anniversary. Second Baptist has stood since 1865 as a symbol of the African American community of Ann Arbor. As this country has gone through a transformative journey to live up to its creed of "All men are created equal" for the past century and a half, the Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor has been on a journey to perfect itself.

Second Baptist's journey began when it was chartered in 1865. The original congregation was led by Rev. Lewis and met in a small frame cottage overlooking the Huron River. They would later move into a new building in the heart of the segregated black residential community of the city in 1890. As Second Baptist grew, so did Ann Arbor's African American community. In the late 1910's and early 20's, the "Great Migrations" led to a large growth in the African American population in Washtenaw County. In the late 20's and 30's programs were inaugurated to help community members get through the Great Depression. In 1966 Rev. Emmett L. Green was chosen to lead Second Baptist through a new Civil Rights Era. Rev. Green was committed to Martin Luther King's inspired Social Gospel civil rights activism during his tenure as pastor.

Second Baptist is currently led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Daniels, who aims to help Second Baptist continue its tradition of building a church with Christ and His Gospel as its foundation. On its 150th year, Second Baptist pauses to reflect, to renew and to embrace the limitless possibilities that God has scripted for the coming seasons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor The Second Baptist Church of Ann Arbor for its sesquicentennial anniversary and its dedication to enriching the lives of the surrounding community.

H.R. 160, THE PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT OF 2015

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of H.R. 160, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2015.

While I strongly believe the bill should be paid for before becoming law, this bill is a great first step of furthering the promise of the Affordable Care Act, a law that will cover 32 million lives when fully implemented.

The Affordable Care Act has created jobs, lowered costs, and significantly expanded coverage, as it was designed to do. It did away with bans on preexisting conditions, allowed young adults to stay on their parents' plan, eliminated annual and lifetime limits, and is

closing the Part D prescription drug donut hole. As the law continues to improve the lives and health security of the American people, I will look for ways to improve the law. No law is perfect. That is why I support the Protect Medical Innovation Act and have cosponsored other pieces of legislation designed to keep consumers from feeling the hit of unintended consequences. Congress should look for ways to create jobs, lower costs further, and encourage states to accept Medicaid expansion, which will cover an additional 800,000 working Floridians.

I am hopeful that with a strong vote in the House of Representatives, H.R. 160 will soon arrive at the President's desk, fully offset, to be signed into law.

HONORING MAJOR STEPHEN REICH AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE QUILT PROJECT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Major Stephen Reich and to recognize the compassionate work of the Home of the Brave Quilt Project.

Today, we recognize the history and importance of quilting in our society as a symbol of Americana. Quilting can tell stories through fabric and stitches when words fail. For hundreds of years, quilting has been used not only as a means of communication, but also as a sign of respect for fellow community members. In keeping with this tradition, the Home of the Brave Quilt Project has taken on the task of honoring our brave men, women, and families touched by war through the gift of a quilt.

Susan and Raymond Reich from Washington Depot, Connecticut, lost their son, Stephen, on June 28, 2005. Stephen graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1993. While studying at the Academy, he pitched for the baseball team. Two years into his military career, the Baltimore Orioles drafted the southpaw, and he played for their minor league affiliate team before the Army recalled him to finish his term. Choosing to answer the call of military service and relinquishing his pro baseball career, he returned to fight for our great country. Stephen was killed along with seven other Night Stalkers during a rescue operation to save a Navy SEAL team in Afghanistan; he was on his fourth tour of duty.

Shortly after Stephen died, his mother and father received a quilt in his honor. As a quilter by profession, Susan understood the significance of this act. Receiving the quilt helped her family heal and it provided them with comfort, knowing that others were thinking of them during their difficult time.

When Don Beld founded the Home of the Brave Quilt Project in July of 2004, his goal was to give families comfort in the best way he knew how. Since Don did not serve during the Vietnam War like many of his peers, he knew in his heart that he needed to serve America's families in some way. With this idea in mind, Don embarked on a project that would expand to 59 states and territories, honoring those who have died from injuries while

on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Each quilt is based on patterns originally designed by the United States Sanitary Commission during the Civil War era. To date, the Home of the Brave Quilt Project has delivered over 6,000 quilts to more than 5,000 families. They serve as a reminder that bravery will always be revered.

On Sunday, June 28, the Reich family marked the tenth anniversary of Stephen's death. I hope that the quilt they received continues to provide comfort and reminds their family that we, as a nation, hold them in our hearts.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the 51st anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the consequential governmental actions since the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the act that would profoundly change our country and brought about the greatest reduction in economic and social inequality among Americans in history.

Mr. Speaker, today it is difficult to imagine there once was a time in our country when blacks and whites could not eat together in public restaurants, use the same public restrooms, stay at the same hotels, or attend the same schools.

It is hard to believe today that just 51 years ago, discrimination on the ground of race was a legal and socially accepted practice.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 changed that.

The Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination and segregation in employment, public accommodations, and education on the ground of race, gender, religion or national origin.

This act became the soil from which our country flourished; opportunities were bred and dreams were born.

This change did not happen overnight or by accident.

It took hard work and courage and an unwavering faith that America could live up to the true meaning of its creed.

With American leaders embodying faith and courage the Civil Rights Act signifies battles fought over many years that our champions finally won.

Leaders like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney Young, Rosa Parks, and John Lewis are just a few of the many noble champions who took a stand for freedom and risked their lives to make real the promise of America for all Americans.

Today, 51 years later, we continue to preserve the rights and freedoms that so many fought for and could only dream of before the Civil Rights Act.

On the evening of June 11, 1963, President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation and uttered these words that would echo in history: "It ought to be possible for every American to enjoy the privileges of being American without regard to his race or his color. But this is not the case. We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution. The